

Introduction

In this March/April 2012 edition the reader will find *Trendlines* taking a pretty thorough look at Utah's economy. Not necessarily a forecast, although there are a few glimpses into the future by our Chief Economist Mark Knold. Known for his strict adherence to the data with an eye on the past, Mark has an "in the trenches" feel for the economic churn in Utah.

There's some interesting insight into newly hired employees in Utah over the third quarter of 2011 that indicates that networking really helps when one is seeking a job and previous employer referrals do make a difference.

Every month the department releases its monthly analysis of Utah's economy in the form of Utah's Employment Summary, that report is where the monthly unemployment rate is revealed. As most people know, that's the number media members wait to report on, and politicians pay close attention to. If you've ever wanted to know how economists arrive at that number, read Mark Knold's analysis on page 10.

The department's mission states, the Utah Department of Workforce Services strengthens Utah's economy by supporting the economic stability and quality of the state's workforce. When we say workforce we mean just about every segment of the popula-

tion. Rick Little, the Director of our Workforce Research and Analysis Division dives in with both feet to identify who those customers are. You'll see that indeed this department touches a lot of Utahns.

Every issue of *Trendlines* shines its spotlight on a targeted industry and Insider News. This time we're taking a look at the Information industry, and what do we mean when we say the "Information Age? Our Insider News focuses on Welfare, Work, and the Economy, tracing the origin of social programs back to the Social Security Act of 1935, and how it has evolved into today's social safety net.

As you've read so far *Trendlines* is about a lot of different topics and subjects. I believe you'll find it interesting and worth the time invested in reading it. The entire staff at DWS are committed to our mission to connect Utah job seekers to Utah Employers, and here you get a good idea on how we go about that.

Whether discussing how women and men match up against each other in educational attainment, or the value of creating family friendly workplaces to improve productivity and employee success and loyalty, *Trendlines* will take you there. We invite you pass this edition along when you have finished reading it and share it with your colleagues.

Here's why
Trendlines
is worth
reading...

